INTERVIEW OF RONALD CAIRE [illegible] January [illegible], 1967

I interviewed the above person at his office at 610 Poydras St., New Orleans. the interview began at approx. 2:30 P.M. and ended at approx. 3:30 P.M. I found him very cooperative and I believe that he evaded only one question as will be pointed out later.

He met Arcacha around November or December of 1961. Arcacha came to his office to ask him about raising money for the Cuban Revolutionary Front. Caire (hereafter referred to as "RC") does not know if anyone referred Arcacha (hereafter referred to as "SAS") to him or not. This conversation led to the formation of the "Crusade to Free Cuba", and several prominent people in the city were induced to head up the drive. Among these were GILL MELLIN who is the Vice-President in charge of public relations for the Whitney Bank. An account was opened at the Carondelet St. branch of the Whitney and several persons were placed on the signature card. RC says that the card is probably still there as he believes that the account is still open and has a few dollars in it. CARLOS GRIMADER who is an accountant kept the records on this account and probably still has them. The money raisers had a list of things which the money was supposed to pay for but RC says that this was kept neccessarily vague. One thing however that the money was supposed to finance was some P-T boats. The "Crusade" lasted about three months and was a failure and RC says that he lost about $10,000 on the deal in expenditures for which he was never reimbursed. He believes that all that was raised was about $4,000 and that SAS pocketed some cash contributions.

At th e time that SAS first came, and throughout his acquaintance with him, RC's office was on the 7th floor of the Cigali Bldg., corner office on the Canal St. side. After the failure of the crusade, Arcacha went to work for RC and was hired on February 12, 1962. He was terminated on September 18, 1962. (See employment application form, etc.). SAS was on a "draw" with RC at first but later was put on straight commission as he wasn't bringing in any business. Around July or August of 1962, SAS went to Mexico. RC feels sure that he used an assumed name. SAS made the trip with NESTOR MARQUEZ-DIAZ, who is an attorney and economist. He lives in Algiers, has an office in the Gravier Bldg., and commutes daily to Thibodaux, La., where he teaches at Nicholls State College. He was introduced to RC by SAS and the purpose of the trip was to develop some public relations business in an area that was economically depressed. When SAS returned he gave RC a glowing account of business he had lined up for RC promoting the hotel trade in the area. RC went to some expense preparing a presentation and when it was ready he and SAS were to go to Mexico together. RC obtained his visa and loaded the car and on the morning they were to leave SAS just didn't show. This was in September, 1962. [illegible] RC received a word-card from SAS that [illegible] [illegible]

RC says that he didn't get to know [illegible] Cubans through SAS as he felt that SAS appeared to be a "loner". RC says that all of the Cubans are liars, but one person who impressed him with his veracity and character was CARLOS QUIROGA. He says that Quiroga worked in the crusade but ver early warned RC not to trust SAS. RC was also warned about SAS by MAYOR VICTOR SCHIRO, who, when RC went to City Hall to get the permit to solicit money for the crusade, said "Ronnie, I'll give you this permit because it's you, but watch that 'tamale' (referring to SAS)". He dosen't know how or why Schiro knew SAS. RC says that when SAS disappeared he "heisted a car" for which he was charged in Jefferson Parish, and deserted his family here in New Orleans. RC says that SAS had "woman trouble". He has heard from various Cubans that SAS went to Miami, and was later in Houston and Dallas. When SAS disappeared he had been working on landing the Pan-American Life Insurance Co. account and this would have been lucrative. SAS's contact with Pan-American was a FRITZ LINDLEY. RC says that the head of the "anti-Arcacha" faction among the Cubans was ERNESTO RODRIGUEZ. Rodriguez and his father ran the Berlitz School of music and the school was used for meetings and preparing "kits" during the crusade.

When SAS first came to RC he said he was active in smuggling men into the underground in Cuba. SAS was later deposed as the local front leader and replaced by LOUIS RAVEL, who is a very fine man.

SAS mentioned GUY BANNISTER several times in general conversation but he dosen't remember in what connection. He never saw them together. He remembers that SAS once had an office on Camp St. and Lafayette St. by the old post office. It was on the corner and there is a restaurant downstairs.

RC knows nothing about training camps or arms caches, but SAS once told him that on one occasion he (SAS) had driven a truck-load of "plastic explosives" from Houma, La. to New Orleans. SAS said he had to do it because no one wanted to drive the truck. This incident occurred prior to RC's meeting SAS.

RC never saw SAS with LEE HARVEY OSWALD, but Oswald once applied for a job with RC when he was in the Cigali Bldg. He says Oswald just came in one day and said he had had experience in public relations and wanted a job. RC told him if he could bring in any business he would pay him a a commission. He never saw him again. Oswald did not fill out an application form. RC says that he didn't even realize that Oswald had applied for a job until some months after the assassination. I asked him how he came to realize this as Oswald's picture had been well published and he had not filled out an application with RC. This appeared to slight[illegible] upset RC as he was aware that his statement was [illegible] incendiary. He [illegible]

by saying that it had come back to him that he was talking to some of the fellows from WDSU at the press club and that they were discussing Oswald's interview with him. He says that he said "Say, now that I think about it, that guy came to me for a job" (?). He also says that he is sorry he said it because the FBI has "cost me about 100 hours time questioning me about it". The incident concerning Oswald occured before SAS and was around the time of the WDSU interview.

At one time SAS brought a man to the office and introduced him to RC saying the man was from Miami and was a big man in the front. He was only in town for the day. SAS said that the man had been head of the Secret Police under Batista. RC believes this because a number of Cubans in the next few days told RC that they knew the man had been to RC's office and asked him what he had to do with the man because the man had been the head of police, etc. They urged RC not to have anything to do with the man. He could not remember the name but later, when I was going through various names for purposes of possible recognition, I asked if RC recognized the name TONI VARONA, and he said "wait a minute, that's the name of the man who Arcacha introduced me to". (See interview of Arturo Finlay, p. 3). (It is possible that RC is confused as I notice on the application form of SAS that a MANUEL A. VARONA is listed by SAS as his "immediate supervisor"...see p. 1, in the Cuban Revolutionary Democratic Front. However it could be the same man as the middle initial could be for "Antonio" which could result in the name "Toni Varona".).

RC does not recognize the name of RICARDO DAVIS, nor of any of the other names I have come across. He vaguely recognizes the picture of MIGUEL TORRES who he believes was one of the minor "runners" during the crusade. He does not recognize any of the other pictures. He has not heard of DAVID FERRIE. He remembers CARLOS BRINGUIER as being active in the crusade. He recognizes the names of MIRO CARDONA, LUIS SANCHEZ, LUIS BODEFOL, AND TOMAS GAMBA (See interview of Arturo Finlay, p. 3) as being big front leaders from Miami. He says that the big man from Miami, however, was some "Doctor something" about whom the Cubans all talked. He can't recall the name.

One man who knew SAS well was MANUEL GIL, an accountant who was with the American Sugar Cane Co. and still lives in New Orleans.

RC says that he believes he still has some of the crusade files in his shed and will look for them and will be glad to turn them over to us. We can keep the papers already given to us.

RC desires to cooperate in any way possible.